

#### Members

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair  
Rep. Robert Alderman  
Rep. Cleo Duncan  
Rep. Dennie Oxley  
Sen. Kent Adams  
Sen. Allie Craycraft  
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker  
Sen. Connie Sipes  
Hugh Beebe  
Michael Carmin  
Nan Daley  
Herb Grulke  
Donna Ott  
Becky Zaseck



## INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM

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Authority: IC 12-11-7

### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** October 18, 2000  
**Meeting Time:** 11:00 A.M.  
**Meeting Place:** State House, 200 W. Washington St.,  
Room 156A  
**Meeting City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 4

**Members Present:** Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair; Rep. Dennie Oxley; Rep. Cleo Duncan; Sen. Kent Adams; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Nan Daley; Herb Grulke.

**Members Absent:** Rep. Robert Alderman; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Connie Sipes; Hugh Beebe; Donna Ott; Becky Zaseck; Michael Carmin.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Representative Summers, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m., and asked Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to begin testimony. No official action was taken at this meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

#### **II. Hoosier Healthwise for Children**

Susan Preble, Legislative Liaison, FSSA addressed the Commission regarding Hoosier Healthwise for Children (Hoosier Healthwise) by testifying to the following:

- Hoosier Healthwise:
  - is a health insurance program offered by the State for children;
  - is available for pregnant women and low-income families;
  - is partially funded through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) created by Congress;

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

- provides two healthcare packages (Package A and Package C).
- Package A offers the same healthcare provisions as covered under Medicaid.
- Package C requires certain co-payments.
- All coverage is based on the concept of “prior authorization”.
- Hoosier Healthwise and Medicaid are not authorized to cover early intervention of individuals with Autism.

Ms. Preble submitted a handout (Exhibit #1) which describes her testimony more fully and provides additional information regarding the following items: 1) health services covered by each Hoosier Healthwise package; 2) eligibility requirements; and 3) specific costs associated with Hoosier Healthwise.

### **III. Autism Coverage at Indiana University**

The Chair asked Legislative Services Agency to distribute a letter from Daniel Rives, Director of Benefits Program, Indiana University regarding Autism coverage at Indiana University (Exhibit #1A). In his letter, Mr. Rives addresses the elimination of Autism as an excluded diagnosis from two self-funded health care plans at Indiana University.

### **IV. Committee Discussion**

Ms. Preble’s testimony regarding Hoosier Healthwise generated discussion on the following topics:

#### *Medicaid Funding of Early Intervention*

- Wisconsin’s efforts at providing coverage (via Medicaid) for individuals with Autism regarding Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA).
- The possibility of FSSA providing the Commission with suggestions concerning a legislative solution allowing Medicaid monies to fund early intervention treatment such as ABA.
- The Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Financing Administration’s (HCFA) position allowing ABA to be covered by Early and Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) funds.

#### *Medicaid Waivers for Individuals with Autism*

- Services offered under Indiana’s Medicaid Waiver Program.
- The January 1, 1998 to December 31, 2002 renewal of the program offering services to:
  - 200 individuals in year one;
  - 250 individuals in year two;
  - 300 individuals in year three;
  - 350 individuals in year four;
  - 400 individuals in year five.
- The possible expansion of the waiver (beyond 200 individuals) being contingent upon appropriation of additional State funding.

### **V. Discussion of Proposed Legislation**

The Chair asked Legislative Services Agency to distribute a bill draft regarding Autism waiver funding (Exhibit #2). PD 3453 appropriates to the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (FSSA), from the State General Fund, sufficient monies to increase the number of eligible

individuals served under the Medicaid Autism Waiver.

The Chair then asked that another bill draft be distributed regarding fund reversions (Exhibit #3). PD 3452 provides that money remaining in the Developmentally Disabled Client Services Account or any other State account or fund used to serve individuals with developmental disabilities does not revert to the State General Fund at the end of a State fiscal year.

The Chair asked that one final bill draft be distributed regarding insurance coverage for Autism (Exhibit #4). PD 3465 requires group insurance for State employees, group health insurers, and group health maintenance organization contracts to provide coverage for Autism.

## **VI. Public Testimony**

The Chair allowed public testimony by Penny Githens and Karen Mummery (parents of Autistic children) on insurance coverage for individuals with Autism and early intervention. Ms. Githens submitted a handout (Exhibit #5) which describes her testimony more fully and provides additional information regarding the following items: 1) Kentucky statutes regarding insurance coverage of individuals with Autism; and 2) an article for the Florida Times-Union regarding health insurance and Autism.

## **VII. Final Business**

The Chair rescheduled the fifth meeting from the 24<sup>th</sup> of October to the 31st of October, and indicated that the Commission would entertain additional legislation at that time regarding early intervention and insurance coverage of Autism.

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Note: Michael Carmin was present at the third meeting on September 26, 2000 (he was inadvertently marked as absent).